

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2007

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Pres' Message.

Greetings from the desk of the President. WOW! Is it May already? This will be my fourth month in office, and we still don't have a working plan for beginning the repairs on the club's building. We have a rough estimate from one contractor, but that's it. Every other contractor that has been contacted is too busy to bother with us, or not willing to extend the scope of the job over a longer period of time that would accommodate our financial situation. Our appeal at last month's general membership meeting for people to contact Rich Carbine with a list of skills or abilities has met little response. Seriously, the contractor's quote was in excess of \$60,000. That sum can be lessened considerably, if we are willing to provide general labor for demolition, and plumbing, electrical and finish work on the interior. I would like to see commitment from the membership to save this vital resource we own. I can't stress enough, what a giant and necessary undertaking this project is. There is a need to develop support and enthusiasm in the membership to get it started and carry it to fruition. If not with your physical participation, perhaps with financial aide. The board is moving our investment funds into accounts that make our money work harder for us, but that is not going to be enough to save the clubhouse. We need some good old fashioned "Barn Raising Spirit". Every one of us knows how contagious and fun that can be. I appeal to all of you, to make a commitment to the club and the success of the project to restore the building.

In the spirit of public service, I have volunteered for two races on May 5th. I'm not sure what I've gotten myself into, but all the event chairs assure me that it will be fun. I would like to thank Jerry Foster WA6BXV and Chuck Deatruck WA6SQQ for loaning me some equipment for the upcoming events. If you haven't volunteered for public service, why not give it a try this year?

Column three.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Public Service Events for 2007.

At the present time, the list below shows some of the Public Service events that are normally manned by Amateur Radio personnel. Just a heads up to give advance notice of some of the dates. Randy KA6BQF.

Sat. May 5, MiWok 100K run (0700-1000 hrs) These first two are on the same day and both need numerous volunteers!

Sat. May 5 and into early May 6th,
The Relay (1500-0530 hrs)

Sat. May 12,
The Human Race (0730-1200 hrs)

Sun. June 10,
Dipsea (0700 - 1700 hrs)

Sat. June 16, Terrible Two (0800-2230 hrs) A Sonoma County event.

Sat. June 23 Double Dipsea
5-6 People

Sat. August 4 Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century 20 People

Sat. August 18 Holstein Hundred
15 People

Sun. September 30
Escape from Alcatraz

Sat. June 23 - Double Dipsea,
5 or 6 people.

Sat August 4 - Marin Century/Mt. Tam Double century 20 people

Sat. August 18 - Holstein Hundred
15 People

Sun. September 30 - Escape from Alcatraz

For info on these events contact
Randy KA6BQF 510-526-4089 or
Chuck WA6SQQ 897-7267

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Pres' Msg. Cont.

Field Day is rapidly approaching. RSVP is being requested by the committee chairs, for food purchasing purposes. I encourage you to contact Rich Carbine or Dave Hodgson to ask if they need help in delivering equipment to the Rod & Gun club on June 22nd, set up, filling operating schedules, teardown or other kinds of assistance.

The venue for this year's Christmas party has been changed to the Deer Park Villa in Fairfax. There will be a request for input in selecting the menu in the future. The menu selections have three price ranges, that has yet to be decided upon. The least expensive menu, offers plenty of choice, and is reasonably affordable, especially if we consider that almost no money will have to come out of the treasury to fund the meal. The menu options will be discussed at monthly meetings, so stay tuned for future developments. As always, the board needs your suggestions and input, to provide satisfactory events.

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

May 4, MARS General Membership monthly meeting 7:30pm at the clubhouse.

May 10, MARS Board of Directors monthly meeting 7:30pm at the clubhouse.

May 11, I will be speaking at the EBARC meeting if anyone cares to join me in El Sobrante that evening.

May 13, Pancake Breakfast on the SS Red Oak Victory in Richmond. (It's Mother's Day. Take your mom along if she can climb the fairly steep gangway. ed.)

May 19, The Jeremiah O'Brien is having her annual Bridge to Bridge cruise.

This is your club. Please come to meetings and express your needs, desires and ideas! 73/88 Denice Stoops, President.

Look for QSA-5 in PDF format in June.

If we have a 'net address on file from recent or **past** membership renewals, we'll use it. Failure to receive the next issue by 10 June means your address didn't work. Hard copies will be mailed to those without 'net access or who specifically requested one in the last renew. Questions to K6PHD@ARRL.NET. No whining. (grin)

Board of Directors Meeting, 4/12/07

The meeting was called order by President Denice Stoops at 1926 hrs.

Based on the Secretary's recollection, the following board members were present: Denice Stoops, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, Randy Jenkins, Rich Carbine, Al Weisman, Norm Baetz, and Trustee Doug Slusher.

Secretary Randy reported on incoming communications from the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club, and the County Registrar of Voters.

Treasurer Dave gave his report. The account summaries for March show \$3010 in income and \$685.64 in expenses. Dave was transferring money out of the general checking account and into certificates of deposit so that more interest could be earned. He was also consolidating certain certificates of deposit, again so that a higher rate of interest could be earned. At the request of the current building manager, the separate building checking account would be closed. Dave also reported on the upcoming insurance payment due soon.

Membership Committee: Phil Dunlap reported that dues were still trickling in. At this point we had approximately 100 members. Beginning soon, QSA 5 will be produced and distributed in electronic/PDF format, unless otherwise requested.

Recreation Committee: Our original location choice for our Christmas party was San Rafael Joe's for December 9. To hold that date, we had made a \$200 refundable deposit. As of late April the location has been changed to the Deer Park Villa in Fairfax and the deposit has been refunded. The date is now December 2.

Public Service Committee: Randy Jenkins reported that we have the Miwok 100, The Relay, and The Human Race coming up in May. We have yet to be contacted by The Human Race, and it was suggested that that might be an event we could forgo.

Technical Committee: Doug Slusher reported on continuing contact with an MMWD about the Tiburon and Tam West sites.

Comm Truck Committee: Dave Hodgson reported that we need to tie down the fabric on the cover for the Comm Truck, the bungees have failed. Doug Slusher reported that the 100 W UHF radio was ready for installation back into the truck, and that mounting plates were being fabricated for the radios in the front console. There was a discussion about costs for operating and maintaining the comm truck. Rich Carbine asked for a spreadsheet of costs to operate the truck for the past five years. Dave Hodgson gave an accounting of this year's projected costs and will produce a report based upon the available data. Rich also asked about projected costs for radios for the truck. Doug Slusher reported that any radios

Column two, top.

for the truck had either been donated, or were already installed.

Education Committee: We really don't know when the next training sessions will be scheduled, it depends upon demand.

VE Liaison: Al Weisman reported that the next session would be held on Saturday, June 2.

RACES Liaison: Dave Hodgson reported that the new memorandum of understanding was currently under review by the County Attorney.

Building Committee: Building Manager Carbine reported on a bid from Lowry Construction totaling \$69,000. The scope of work to be performed included remediation of the leaks, correction of dry rot and other structural problems on the east side of the building, remodeling of the restrooms, including bringing one restroom up to ADA standards, relocating the water heater, and refinishing the kitchen and office areas. The bid did not include any electrical work, which Rich proposes to do in-house. The price of the bid can be substantially reduced if the club chooses to do much of the finish work in-house. We will continue to solicit bids.

Old Business: Kids Day - Deferred until the May meeting. Culvert Repair - Doug Slusher will get a price on the piece of pipe that we need. Field Day - No change. RedEx equipment will be staged at the Marin clubhouse.

New Business: A condolence card will be sent to Merriam, the wife of longtime member, Leo Bodian K6BAQ. Uncle Leo died on 23 March.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2048 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files at the corporate office.

Membership: Phil Dunlap reminded people that their dues were due. Several new members were announced, Harald, KI6IMZ, Elisabeth, KI6IMV, and Madeline, KI6IMW Matej, and John Barkdall, W6JEB.

Kids Day: We still need a volunteer to head up Kids Day, on June 16.

Building Manager: Rich Carbine reported that we have a single bid for the work to be done on the clubhouse. The bid, from Lowery Construction, came in at \$69,000. The contractor will allow us to do as much of the work ourselves as we want to, and we should be able to lower the total price considerably. If anyone has construction experience and can help, they should contact Rich at 546-4677. We will also entertain additional bids. We should be able to pull this off if we all work together.

Old Business: Denice Stoops reported that a PRV had been installed on the water system. Thanks to Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, Texx Woodworth, and Randy Jenkins for the installation. A new programmable thermostat has been installed on the furnace thanks to Rich Carbine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2010 hrs. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

General Meeting 4/06/07

The meeting was called order at 1928 hrs by president Denice Stoops. Twenty eight members and guests signed the roster.

Guests were Craig Mirkin and Steve Rose.

Secretary Jenkins reported on incoming communications; a letter from the Registrar of Voters, and a letter from the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club.

President Denice Stoops reported on the activities from the March board meeting. A thank you letter for a donation of the Heathkit radio was reported to have been mailed. The budget that was submitted by the treasurer, Dave Hodgson, was accepted as a working document, with the understanding that the board would attempt to reduce spending further. The picnic had been scheduled for September 15, at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Volunteers are still needed for public service events.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson reported \$3010.45 in income and \$619.41 in expenses for March. The total assets as of March 31, were \$42,701.55.

Recreation committee: The picnic on September 15 will have a different format than in previous years. This year, the club will provide the site, soft drinks, and charcoal. Members attending will bring their own meat, and a side dish to be shared. Suggestions were solicited for the Christmas party in December.

Public service committee: Chairman Randy Jenkins reported on the upcoming events on May 5. The Miwok 100 and The Relay both occur on the same day and volunteers are still needed. Following that, the Dipsea Race is coming up on June 10.

Technical committee: Trustee Doug reported on discussions with MMWD to reestablish Tiburon input to the Big Rock system. We are also in discussions about regaining access to the West Tam site. Dave Hodgson reported on discussions with the County of Marin about continued access to the Middle Peak site.

Comm truck committee: Dave Hodgson reported that we had lubed and exercised the mast.

Education committee: Ben Sawtelle reported that it was unclear exactly when the next classes would be held, maybe in May, maybe in July.

VE coordinator: Al Weisman reported there would be a VE session on Saturday, June 2.

Field Day: Dave Hodgson reported on preparations for Field Day. In association with the Redwood Empire DX Assn., this year's Field Day will be operated as Class 3A. There will be two full-time stations and one station shared between the digital modes. There will also be a GOTA station. REDX will provide towers and beams. The Marin club will provide radios, bandpass filters, generator, and computer logging. Arrangements are being made for publicity. The location will be the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Set up will be on Friday, June 22, starting at noon. Anyone attending Saturday night's dinner, must make a reservation, and there will be a five dollar donation requested for food.

Column two, lower.

K6GWE Repeaters**Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +****2 meters****INPUTS**

pl 203.5 Big Rock
pl 179.9 Mt. Tam west
pl 167.9 Mt. Barnabe
pl 192.8 Tiburon

Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -

pl 179.9 Mt. Tam input

San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +

pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.

440**San Pedro Ridge**

443.525 + pl 82.5

Mt. Tamalpais

443.250 + pl 179.9

Here's one for the Elderfahrten.
What's the next line to the following verse?

"Down went the gunner, a bullet was his fate. Down went the gunner, and then the gunner's mate. Up jumped the sky pilot, gave the boys a look and manned the gun himself as he laid aside the Book, shouting....." ?

Anyone using the cold water faucet in the clubhouse kitchen will stay dryer as of an early April Sunday afternoon. Randy KA6BQF, with the aid of three stooges: Dave KG6TCJ, Phil K6PHD and Texx Woodworth. (double X?) installed a water pressure reducer/regulator valve on the building's 3/4" line from the street. Randy KA6BQF did a pro job that would stand up to any inspection.

The 125 pounds/inch² that used to wet you down when you opened the cold water tap has been tamed down to a static 65 psi. The MMWD warns users when a significant pressure change is going to occur. We never got that info or it was disregarded, probably a few years ago. The plumbing code, according to the MMWD, requires a reducer if the street supply is over 80 psi. We only discovered the high pressure when a member got curious and measured it.

In Santa Venetia the street pressure was increased from about 90 psi to 140 in two steps with notice given before each increase. We assumed that this was to increase fireflow to houses in the hills above. Cheaper and easier to crank up the street pressure than for the MMWD crew to dig up the street to install a bypass around their own reducer. Same assumption applies on Shell Rd.

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 17, 2007 --

The ARRL has been working with the US Department of Defense to develop a plan to mitigate alleged **interference from 70 cm ham radio repeaters to military radar systems on both coasts.** Amateur Radio is secondary to government users from 420 to 450 MHz and must not interfere with primary users. Citing an increasing number of interference complaints, the US Air Force has asked the FCC to order dozens of repeater systems to either mitigate interference to the "PAVE PAWS" radars or shut down. The Commission has not yet responded. The situation affects 15 repeaters within less than 100 miles of Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, and more than 100 repeaters within some 140 miles of Beale Air Force Base near Sacramento, California. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, stresses that the Defense Department acknowledges Amateur Radio's value in disasters and emergencies and is being extremely cooperative -- and a wholesale shutdown of US 70 cm Amateur Radio activity is *not* in the offing.

"The ARRL Lab is working up calculations on each repeater system the Air Force has identified to determine where interference-mitigation techniques offer a reasonable chance of keeping the repeater on the air," Henderson says. "In order for the amateur community as a whole to succeed in this venture, it is going to require the cooperation of all affected repeater owners."

A US Air Force contractor identified the problematic repeater systems last summer, but the situation didn't become critical until the Air Force contacted the FCC a month ago. ARRL officials met with Defense Department representatives in late March to discuss alleged interference to the PAVE PAWS radar sites, and this week Henderson contacted Amateur Radio frequency coordinating organizations in both affected areas - the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California (NARCC) and the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC).

PAVE PAWS is a missile and satellite detection and tracking system, and its name is a half-acronym. "PAVE" is simply an Air Force program name. "PAWS" stands for "Phased Array Warning System." Although PAVE PAWS has been in existence since the late 1970s, the Cape Cod and Sacramento sites are the only remaining operational facilities in the US.

Column three.

From column two.

PAVE PAWS facilities occupy essentially the entire 70 cm band -- one factor that makes mitigation difficult. Feeding upward of 1800 active antenna elements, the broadband radar transmitters emit an average power output of more than 145 kW.

As a "first step" to mitigate the interference, the ARRL is recommending that all affected repeater owners reduce power -- possibly to as little as 5 W effective radiated power (ERP). "We understand the difficulty this may cause to owners and users," Henderson said, "but the alternative to operating with a smaller coverage area may be not operating at all." Amateur Radio stations already must abide by a maximum 50 W PEP power limitation in the areas around both Air Force facilities.

Henderson says the League is still seeking further information on the problem. "Until the Defense Department accepts a mitigation plan, repeater owners should exercise patience," he cautioned. "Once the ARRL Lab has completed its propagation calculations, we will be in a better position to provide advice for specific repeaters on a case-by-case basis."

Contact Dan Henderson, N1ND (860-594-0236), with specific questions or issues associated with this situation.

From The ARRL Letter

A Classic Tale

An elderly Italian man, who lived on the outskirts of Monte Cassino, went to the local church for confession. When the priest slid open the panel in the confessional, the man said: "Father ... During World War II, a beautiful woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the enemy. So I hid her in my attic."

The priest replied: "That was a wonderful thing you did! You have no need to confess that."

"It's worse than that, Father. She started to repay me with sexual favours." The priest said: "By doing that, you were both in great danger. However, two people under those circumstances can be very tempted to act that way. But if you are truly sorry for your actions, you are indeed forgiven."

"Thank you, Father. That's a great load off my mind. But I do have one more question."

"And what is that?" asked the priest.

"Should I tell her the war is over?"

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left directly under the power lines.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend to try to keep the clowns honest.

Sunday morning informal meeting, grinningly called the bible/babble) class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only. **Dues structure is: \$25.00 per year. \$30 for family memberships.** No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

There is a senior/student category but nobody knows what the dues are.

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Membership: Dave and Phil

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